

Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), erupted into open conflict between ethnically allied Dinka and Nuer factions of the security services and quickly escalated into civil war;

Whereas, on August 17, 2015, after months of mediation by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan was signed by President Kiir, Riek Machar for SPLM-In Opposition (SPLM-IO), and Pagan Amum for SPLM-Former Detainees;

Whereas the parties to the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan delayed implementation of the agreement and demonstrated a lack of political will for sustainable peace, and in July 2016, civil war returned to South Sudan as new clashes in Juba quickly spread throughout the country;

Whereas the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan, signed on September 12, 2018, asserted the Parties' commitment to the permanent ceasefire, humanitarian access, and respect for human rights, and called for the establishment of a Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity to lead South Sudan to democratic elections after 44 months;

Whereas Kiir's presidential term has been extended 3 times since South Sudan's independence, twice through amendments to the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan and most recently through an extension of the Transitional Period under the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan to 2023;

Whereas, despite years of fighting, 2 peace agreements, punitive actions by the international community, and widespread suffering among civilian populations, the leaders of South Sudan show little motivation to build sustainable peace, and critical provisions of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan remain unimplemented;

Whereas the conflict in South Sudan resulted in the deaths of at least 383,000 people from December 2013 to April 2018, according to a report by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and caused one of the worst displacement crises in the world with 1,600,000 internally displaced persons and 2,200,000 refugees and asylum seekers in the region as of May 2021, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

Whereas South Sudan ranks 185th of 189 countries in the 2020 Human Development Index, performed the worst of 180 countries on the 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index, is perennially one of the most dangerous countries in which aid workers operate, received the lowest ranking in the Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report every year from 2015 to 2021, and has been on the Child Soldiers Prevention Act list for 10 years in a row;

Whereas the United Nations declared a "man-made" famine in parts of South Sudan in February 2017, and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs stated in March 2021 that "South Sudan is facing its highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition since independence ten years ago";

Whereas, in February 2021, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan "found that ten years after independence, staggering levels of violence continue and threaten to spiral out of control across several regions in the country";

Whereas the situation in South Sudan persists while its neighbors face increasingly urgent domestic and regional issues, including

the ongoing political transition in Sudan, conflict in Ethiopia, and deeply flawed electoral processes and political unrest in Uganda and Somalia;

Whereas the United States has been the largest donor to South Sudan, providing more than \$1,800,000,000 in development assistance since independence and more than \$6,000,000,000 in emergency humanitarian assistance since the start of the civil war in December 2013;

Whereas, on July 9, 2021, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan marked 10 years in existence at a total cost of more than \$10,300,000,000, and total United States contributions are estimated to exceed \$3,300,000,000 through 2021;

Whereas the leaders of South Sudan have consistently failed to uphold their responsibilities to create the conditions for peace and prosperity, have prioritized self-preservation and corruption over the needs of the people they represent, have acted in bad faith in the implementation of cease-fire and peace agreements, and have betrayed the cause of freedom, resulting in the loss of millions of innocent lives;

Whereas South Sudan has not held an election since its independence and the current leaders of South Sudan were appointed or installed through transitional arrangements based on peace agreements;

Whereas South Sudan merits consistent high-level attention given the central role the United States played in diplomatic efforts leading to the independence of South Sudan and the enormous investments in humanitarian and other assistance the United States has provided to South Sudan; and

Whereas, on July 9, 2021, South Sudan celebrated the 10th anniversary of its independence: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reiterates the commitment of the United States to helping the people of South Sudan realize their aspirations of an independent, stable, democratic, and prosperous South Sudan;

(2) calls on the Secretary of State to lead a comprehensive interagency process to develop a revitalized United States policy toward South Sudan that—

(A) identifies a broader range of South Sudanese political and civilian stakeholders, beyond President Kiir and First Vice President Machar, with whom the United States may work for the promotion of peace, democracy, development, accountability, transparency, and anti-corruption efforts;

(B) restores United States diplomatic leadership with regard to South Sudan alongside European and African partners;

(C) reflects the realities of the conflict and the political context in South Sudan; and

(D) increases diplomatic efforts to urge regional actors, particularly in Kenya and Uganda, to investigate assets of corrupt South Sudanese elites and ensure Kenya and Uganda are no longer havens for conflict- and corruption-related proceeds;

(3) calls on the United States Mission to the United Nations—

(A) to demonstrate renewed United States leadership with regard to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan to orient the peace-keeping mission toward increased effectiveness, clarity of purpose, and eventual draw-down; and

(B) to call upon regional and international actors to cooperate in enforcing the United Nations arms embargo in South Sudan and take action against those violating the embargo;

(4) calls on the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the Secretary of State—

(A) to ensure that United States assistance adheres to the principle of "Do No Harm" by pausing any funding, including humanitarian aid, that is manipulated to legitimize or enrich any party to the ongoing conflict;

(B) to review United States diplomatic engagement and assistance to South Sudan, which currently amounts to more than \$1,000,000,000 in aid each year, with the goal of matching the level of United States diplomatic engagement with United States assistance; and

(C) to ensure that the comprehensive review of United States assistance programs to South Sudan, started in 2018 to "ensure our assistance does not contribute to or prolong the conflict, or facilitate predatory or corrupt behavior", is completed and its findings publicized; and

(5) urges the Secretary of the Treasury—

(A) to prioritize investigative actions into illicit financial flows fueling violence in South Sudan;

(B) to work with the Secretary of State to add to the list of individuals and entities designated under the South Sudan sanctions program, including individuals at the highest levels of leadership in South Sudan and from within the National Security Service; and

(C) to coordinate, in cooperation with the Secretary of State, with the United Kingdom and the European Union on South Sudan-related sanctions designations and enforcement.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 381—PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 24, 2021, TO BE "NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY WEEK"

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KING, Mr. BURR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 381

Whereas, across the United States, clean and readily abundant forms of energy are powering more homes and businesses than ever before;

Whereas clean energy generation is readily available from zero- and low-emissions sources;

Whereas the clean energy sector is a growing part of the economy and has been a key driver of economic growth in the United States in recent years;

Whereas technological innovation can further reduce costs and increase deployment of clean energy sources;

Whereas the "2021 U.S. Energy and Employment Report" published by the Department of Energy found that, at the end of 2020, the energy and energy efficiency sectors in the United States employed approximately 7,500,000 individuals;

Whereas the scaling of clean energy is essential to reducing emissions;

Whereas clean energy jobs are inherently local, contribute to the growth of local economies, and cannot be outsourced due to the on-site nature of construction, installation, and maintenance; and

Whereas innovative clean energy solutions and clean energy jobs are part of the energy future of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of September 20 through September 24, 2021, to be "National Clean Energy Week";

(2) encourages individuals and organizations across the United States to support commonsense solutions that address the economic, environmental, and energy needs of the United States in the 21st century;

(3) encourages the Federal Government, States, municipalities, and individuals to invest in clean, low-emitting energy technologies; and

(4) recognizes the role of entrepreneurs and small businesses in ensuring the energy leadership of the United States in the global marketplace and supporting low-cost, clean, and reliable energy in the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 382—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2021, AS “RAIL SAFETY WEEK” IN THE UNITED STATES, AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RAIL SAFETY WEEK TO REDUCE RAIL-RELATED ACCIDENTS, FATALITIES, AND INJURIES**

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 382

Whereas the first Rail Safety Week was held from September 24 through September 30, 2017, by the national education safety nonprofit Operation Lifesaver, the Department of Transportation, and other organizations;

Whereas Rail Safety Week was launched to raise awareness about the need for increased education on how to be safe around highway-rail grade crossings and railroad tracks and to highlight efforts to further reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities;

Whereas highway-rail grade crossing and trespassing accidents constituted approximately 96 percent of all rail-related fatalities during 2020;

Whereas, since 2005—

(1) the number of public highway-rail grade crossings has decreased by 9.8 percent; and

(2) the number of gates at such crossings has increased by 38.1 percent;

Whereas, in 2020, 47 percent of all highway-rail grade crossing collisions and 69 percent of all fatal highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred at gated highway-rail grade crossings;

Whereas preliminary Federal statistics indicate that 1,901 highway-grade crossing collisions occurred in the United States in 2020, resulting in 198 deaths and another 685 individuals injured;

Whereas many collisions between trains and motor vehicles or pedestrians could have been prevented by increased education, engineering, and enforcement;

Whereas Operation Lifesaver, the foremost public information and education program on rail safety, administers a public education program about grade-crossing safety and trespassing prevention;

Whereas, during Rail Safety Week, from September 20 through 26, and throughout the year, everyone is encouraged to take added caution as motorists or pedestrians approach tracks or trains;

Whereas the United States, Canada, and Mexico will concurrently observe Rail Safety Week; and

Whereas this important observance should lead to greater safety awareness and a reduction in highway-rail grade crossing collisions and other railroad incidents: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of “Rail Safety Week”;

(2) expresses strong support for—

(A) the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week; and

(B) efforts to reduce rail-related accidents, fatalities, and injuries; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to participate in Rail Safety Week events and activities; and

(B) to educate themselves and others on how to be safe around railroad tracks.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 383—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12, 2021, AS “NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK”**

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 383

Whereas direct support professionals, including direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, are key to providing publicly funded, long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas, during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (referred to in this preamble as “COVID-19”) pandemic, many direct support professionals continue to arrive for work every day in order to ensure the health and safety of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas direct support professionals provide essential services that ensure all individuals with disabilities are—

(1) included as a valued part of the communities in which those individuals live;

(2) supported at home, at work, and in the communities of the United States; and

(3) empowered to live with the dignity that all people of the United States deserve;

Whereas, by fostering connections between individuals with disabilities and their families, friends, and communities, direct support professionals ensure that individuals with disabilities thrive, thereby avoiding more costly institutional care;

Whereas direct support professionals build close, respectful, and trusting relationships with individuals with disabilities and provide a broad range of personalized support to those individuals, including—

(1) helping individuals make person-centered choices;

(2) assisting with personal care, meal preparation, medication management, and other aspects of daily living;

(3) assisting individuals in accessing the community and securing competitive, integrated employment;

(4) providing transportation to school, work, religious, and recreational activities;

(5) helping with general daily affairs, such as assisting with financial matters, medical appointments, and personal interests;

(6) assisting individuals in the transition from isolated or congregate settings or services to living in the communities of their choice; and

(7) helping to keep individuals with disabilities safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic, including by volunteering to quar-

antine with individuals whom they care for to reduce spread of the disease;

Whereas there is a documented critical and increasing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States;

Whereas the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home and community-based settings, and that trend is expected to increase over the next decade;

Whereas many direct support professionals—

(1) are the primary financial providers for their families;

(2) are hardworking, taxpaying citizens who provide a critical service in the United States; and

(3) continue to earn low wages, receive inadequate benefits, and have limited opportunities for advancement, resulting in high turnover and vacancy rates that adversely affect the quality of support, safety, and health of individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States, in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999)—

(1) recognized the importance of the deinstitutionalization of, and community-based services for, individuals with disabilities; and

(2) held that, under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S. 12101 et seq.), a State must provide community-based services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities if—

(A) the community-based services are appropriate;

(B) the affected individual does not oppose receiving the community-based services; and

(C) the community-based services can be reasonably accommodated after the community has taken into account the resources available to the State and the needs of other individuals with disabilities in the State: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 12, 2021, as “National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week”;

(2) recognizes the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages;

(3) appreciates the contribution of direct support professionals in supporting individuals with disabilities and their families in the United States;

(4) commends direct support professionals for being integral to the provision of long-term support and services for individuals with disabilities;

(5) encourages the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor to collect data specific to direct support professionals; and

(6) finds that the successful implementation of public policies affecting individuals with disabilities in the United States can depend on the dedication of direct support professionals.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 384—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 24, 2021, AS “COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATORS APPRECIATION WEEK”**

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 383

Whereas community schools marshal, align, and unite the assets, resources, and